

October 19, 2007

CONTACT: Jacob Roche 202-225-4031

NAPOLEONVILLE, LA - Today Congressman Charlie Melancon joined local officials and representatives from the United States Department of Agriculture in presenting a USDA Rural Development grant to the Village of Napoleonville for the purchase of a new police car. The \$24,750 grant will ensure residents of Napoleonville have safe streets and a secure environment in which to live.

"As a Napoleonville resident, I am grateful for invaluable services that our local police provide for us everyday," said Melancon. "In return, they deserve the best equipment we can give them. The funds from this grant will certainly be well spent keeping our community safe for everyone."

Congressman Melancon has supported various programs aimed at helping local governments protect citizens from crime, provide assistance to victims and bring communities together through community policing.

Congressman Melancon has been a strong supporter of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, urging that the COPS program be fully funded and resisting proposed cuts to funding in the program. The COPS program has helped local communities hire law enforcement for the prevention of gang violence, drug crimes, and to help improve communication interoperability for local first responders.

As a member of the Rural Caucus, Congressman Melancon has highlighted the growing methamphetamine epidemic in rural communities and focused on ways to increase law enforcement, develop strategies for environmental cleanup of meth labs, and provide social services for families who have been devastated by meth abuse. To that end, the Rural Caucus has urged the Bush Administration to focus on rural law enforcement in the National Drug Control Strategy. As a member of the Science Committee, Congressman Melancon supported legislation that would provide for an environmental protocol for cleaning up meth labs. The dangers of meth continue long after the labs have been shut down because of toxins that can continue to be a hazard for families that live in areas that were once used to produce the drug.

Congressman Melancon has also been a strong supporter of the Crime Victims Fund which enables local communities to assist victims of domestic abuse, child physical and sexual abuse, drunk driving, sexual assault, elder abuse, robbery, assault, and homicide. This fund also provides for crisis intervention programs and counseling, support groups, shelters, emergency financial assistance for victims of crime.

In addition, Congressman Melancon has supported funding for the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, administered through the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG). This program helps local communities work to reduce violent crime, combat drug activity, and provide training for law enforcement.

###